

ROAD BILL PASSES AFTER HOT FIGHT

Target of Many Amendments, but Finally Got a Large Majority.

REPEAL BILL IN UPPER BRANCH

Senator Strode Declares Legislature Is Disappointing People of Virginia—Makes Attack on Corporation Commission. Resume Rhea Investigation To-Day.

BY LEWIS H. MACHEN.

For the third day roads and railroads were the special orders in the Legislature. In the House, roads only were discussed. In the Senate, the question of how a tax commission may best be constituted was considered. In the upper branch there is a difference of opinion as to whether a commission should be composed of certain members of the House and Senate or whether the State Corporation Commission should be requested to formulate a plan to be reported to the next session of the General Assembly. No action was taken, but it is probable that the legislative commission will be authorized. Both of these plans look to the segregation of property for the purposes of State and local taxation, which, under the Constitution, may not be accomplished until 1915. It would seem, therefore, that both the legislative commission and the Corporation Commission might have time to formulate their respective plans before either could be effective. Certainly, the bill might not work in harmony for a comprehensive system of assessing and collecting taxes.

If any one thinks this an insignificant subject it is because he has given little thought, and there are enough of this class to make it almost unanimous.

Senator's Criticism.

The debate on this matter in the Senate was the occasion of some sharp criticism of the State Corporation Commission on the part of Senator Strode. Indeed, so liberal is the criticism of this commission nowadays that one is scarcely suggested for a seat on the same before the criticism begins. Where it ends one can no more say than he can locate the terminus of the rainbow. However, it does seem a little confusing that the railroad property of the State should be assessed for the purpose at from \$15,000 to \$25,000 per mile, while it is paying interest on from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per mile. Of course, the franchise taxes, and perhaps other sums, should be deducted, but even that is a matter which might say that the railroad property was enjoying an undervaluation.

However, the road bill is a subject of latitudinous dimensions, and the Corporation Commission, being also in such matters, can probably defend its position.

Senator Strode's lament over the tardiness of the Legislature in dispatching business seems not to be quite justified at this time. This Legislature has probably accomplished as much as could be expected in the time it has been in session, and more than might have been expected, considering the handicap under which it has been compelled to move. Those who are trying to hinder legislation at this session will probably agree that the Legislature is going ahead with speed.

The Road Bill.

It is true that progress in the two main matters in the two houses yesterday was slow, but they are exceptional.

In the House the road bill of proposed amendments. It would have been taken up, if all of them had been taken up. A few were adopted, chiefly by the agreement of the patron. Most of these amendments served as a pretext for speeches. Undoubtedly, the road bill will be passed by a rousing majority.

In the Senate the repeal bill is still calling forth eloquence. Senator Hays made a gallant fight for it yesterday, but it will not pass. The bill is still in the Senate, but the result seems to be no longer in doubt.

Predict Division.

The Rhea investigation will probably see its finish—or rather will see its conclusion—to-night, that is, all except the argument of counsel and the deliberations of the committee. Much interest is manifested as to whether the report of the committee will be unanimous or divided. Most of the wise ones predict a jury will decide.

It is thought that the jury will decide in favor of the State. The bill also contains a similar provision as to the wearing of Southern crosses of honor.

The same committee favorably recommended the bill.

(Continued on Third Page.)

MANY CHARGES AGAINST BRITT

Grand Jury Returns Twenty-Two Indictments Against Former Cashier.

NORFOLK, VA., February 6.—Twenty-two indictments were presented to-night by a grand jury in the Hustings Court of Portsmouth against Alexander B. Britt, cashier of the First People's Bank. Ten of the indictments are for grand larceny; six for embezzlement; four for fraudulent entries; and two for false statements, and the indictments are all returned against him in connection with the failure of the bank. The grand jury was in session throughout the day, and went into the bank failure in detail. It is believed that to-morrow indictments will be presented against individuals who were directors of the bank. The grand jury's attorney, Stewart, declares he proposes to probe the failure to the bottom.

The People's Bank suspended in October last. The failure came as a surprise, the nation being called as one of the most successful banks in the stock being quoted at over 250 and recent statements showing it to be in excellent condition. The examination of experts showed the bank to be insolvent, and that "crooked work" had been done on the books of the bank. A popular demand was made for an investigation, and was followed by Mr. Britt's arrest on the charges enumerated.

FRANCO CROSSED TO SPAIN

He and Two Members of Cabinet Driven Away by Threats of Death.

LISBON, February 6.—The secret and sudden flight of Senor Franco, the former premier, from Lisbon across the frontier into Spain, accompanied by his wife and son, was caused by the threats of death which had been made against him. Since the murder of the King, Franco has been in receipt of many letters, all threatening vengeance. Already Franco's dictatorship had been plotted against, and gone about protected by armed guards, who also watched his house lest those who opposed his iron rule should do him harm, and of late to these were added the threats of those who thought that Franco was responsible, indirectly at least, for the tragedy of Saturday last. Two of Franco's ministers also have disappeared. Senor Carvalho, it is said, fearing reprisals after the murder, hid himself in the garret of the Ministry of Finance until he saw an opportunity to flee from the city with Dr. Abreu, the former Minister of Justice. It is believed, took his departure several days ago.

From Madrid.

MADRID, February 6.—Senor Franco, the former Premier of Portugal, arrived here to-day from Lisbon. He was accompanied by his wife and son and one of his intimate friends, Senor Novais. He is doing all possible to preserve the strictest incognito. So far as is known he has received no one at his hotel, with the exception of the Portuguese Minister to Spain and the Civil Governor of Madrid.

DEMOCRATS STRONGER

Their Policies Growing in Favor, While Republicans Are Weakening.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., February 6.—An enthusiastic reception was accorded William J. Bryan at the Majestic Theatre this afternoon. He was introduced as the next President of the United States, which drew a large applause from the large audience.

The keynote of Mr. Bryan's speech was that Democratic principles are growing stronger, while those of the Republicans are weakening. He said that the speech at the Majestic, he addressed the Woman's Club and later left for Passaic.

Mr. Bryan, in his speech at the Majestic, said in part:

To-day the Democratic party presents a united front, and is more harmonious than I have ever known it to be. Traveling from one State to another, and everywhere that Democrats are ready to fight for Democracy.

Why is it that our party enters into this fight with the spirit that it does? It is because time has vindicated the attitude of the Democratic party. The Democratic party has foreseen our danger and has done all that it could to meet it. Our opponents are always talking about complicated questions of government. Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the Democratic party, said the art of government was the art of being honest.

This government is run in the interest of a few people. If we start with the proposition that the object of the government is to secure equal rights for all, you will find that these propositions have been crystallized in the principles of the Democratic party. In eleven years of complete power, the Republican party, aided by all circumstances, has not strengthened one Republican policy. Every Democratic policy is stronger today than it was when the Republican President most fought in the defense of Democratic ideas.

The attitude of the Democratic party, the speaker declared, has been vindicated by the country's experience with the Republican party. He said that he had devoted his life to the return of this government to the people from whom it has been deplored.

SMASHED WINDOW

Then Robber Crawled Through Hole and Got Money.

Shield's drug store at Third and Main streets was entered by burglar this morning shortly after 5 o'clock and robbed of the cash in the drawer and a number of small movable articles.

The robber entered by the simple method of hurling a stone at the big plate glass window on the Third Street side, which was shattered in five feet in length through which he crept. Securing the money and his loot he got out the same hole before the police arrived.

The police were notified. The amount taken was not large.

KALID M'LEAN AT TANGIER

After Seven Months of Bondage He Is Released and \$100,000 Paid.

TANGIER, February 6.—Kaid Sir Henry McKonzie-MacLean, commander of the Sultan's body guard and next to the Sultan the most influential man in Morocco, has arrived here under an escort from the bandit Raisuli, who has held him under bondage for the past seven months. He was brought here in accordance with the agreement which the British government had made with Raisuli in making with Raisuli for his release, in return for which Great Britain will pay \$100,000 to Raisuli and guarantee him protection and immunity from arrest.

CABLES FOR MORSE TO RETURN AT ONCE

Former Banker's Counsel, at District Attorney's Request, Sends Message

WHY HE IS WANTED NOT MADE PUBLIC

District Attorney Stinson, Who Has Been in Touch With Jury's Bank Investigation, Reticent, and Mr. Boardman Merely Says "Many People Want Him."

NEW YORK, February 6.—At the request of United States District Attorney Stinson, Albert B. Boardman, counsel for Charles W. Morse, late to-day cabled his client at Liverpool asking that Morse return to this city.

Mr. Boardman believes that the banker will take passage on the first steamer sailing west after the arrival at Queenstown or Liverpool of the Cunard Line steamer Campania, upon which, his attorney says, Morse sailed from London last Sunday.

Attorney Boardman's action in cabling his client followed an hour's conference with Mr. Stinson, who was in charge of the investigation before the Federal grand jury concerning the conduct of certain national banks. Mr. Boardman has been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury to-morrow, supposedly, he said, to tell what he knows of Morse's connection with certain banking institutions.

Asked why Mr. Stinson had requested him to ask Mr. Morse to return, Mr. Boardman said: "I do not know, but I suppose it is because a good many people here want him."

District Attorney Reticent.

Mr. Stinson would say nothing as to why he desired the presence here of the man who, after he had organized the American Ice Company, and the Consolidated Steamship Company, was reported to be worth \$20,000,000, because disastrously involved in the misfortunes of the banks which he had been able to control. Several years ago Mr. Stinson admitted that the grand jury was investigating the banking situation, but as to the likelihood of indictments he then declined to talk.

Though the Cunard officials were quite confident that Morse had not sailed on the Campania, as his attorney believes, it was pointed out by friends to-day that the effect upon the health of Morse, of seeing his once great fortune melt away, was such as to make it probable that he had secured passage through others in order to avoid the interruptions to his needed rest.

The same intimate social associates ridiculed the idea that the banker's trip abroad could be reasonably considered as showing an inclination to escape responsibilities at home. Nothing could be more ludicrous, they said, than the idea of a man fleeing to England when the treaty between the United States and Great Britain was so broad that the extradition of any one individual was an easy process.

So long as the Federal statutes in connection with the conduct of national banks could be readily secured.

May Make Him Bankrupt.

Reports of Morse's losses followed each other in rapid succession to-day. One of these was that the creditor banks might unite in making him an involuntary bankrupt, thereby absorbing the remnants of his fortune.

Dayly sheriffs were kept busy to-day securing copies of the attachment in the suit brought by Charles A. Hanna, receiver for the National Bank of North America, in New York, against Morse to recover \$243,321.

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FOR TWO BATTLESHIPS

Committee Will Probably So Report to President.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 6.—Though the House Committee on Naval Affairs has taken no vote on the bill for the purchase of two battleships, the committee is expected to report to the President for his signature.

The bill provides for the purchase of two battleships, one of which is to be a new design, and the other is to be a converted cruiser.

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HOLD TWO CONVENTIONS

One for Taft on Roosevelt Platform, and the Other Anti-Roosevelt.

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., February 6.—Florida Republicans stand conspicuously in the limelight to-day as the first to hold their convention to select delegates to the national convention. It is said here that the exciting scenes enacted to-day are a forecast of similar scenes in other Southern States, caused by the efforts being made by the anti-Roosevelt Republicans to control in the national convention.

The convention held to-day was one of the most remarkable ever witnessed in the South. It was really two conventions at the same time in the same hall.

The progress of business was frequently interrupted by sensational knockdown and dragout fights. The officeholders' faction was called to order by the chairman of the State Committee, and they proclaimed themselves as regulars, but they did not succeed in carrying out their prearranged program.

The anti-Roosevelt faction was equally strong for the leaders to hold in check and resolutions were adopted endorsing William H. Taft for the presidency.

On the other side of the hall the contesting convention took place. The anti-Roosevelt faction was called to order by the chairman of the State Committee, and they proclaimed themselves as regulars, but they did not succeed in carrying out their prearranged program.

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JUDGE HARGIS